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TEST BOOKLET SERIES

Only IAS

Test Booklet
Preliminary Exam- 2019

A

Only Current Affairs: Test-6

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTION

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET **DOES NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES FOR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES A, B, C OR D AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains 100 items (questions). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case, you feel that there is more than one response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item,
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the Answer Sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWER:**
 - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question which has a penalty for which a wrong answer has been given by candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
 - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer; it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question,

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1. Consider the following statements with reference to concept of privileges for members of legislatures?

1. The concept of privileges emerged from the British House of Lords.
2. Indian Constitutions does not have any provision for these privileges.
3. Whenever any of these rights and immunities is disregarded, it is punishable under law of Parliament.
4. There is no law that codifies all the privileges of the legislators in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 3 and 4
(c) 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

2. Jammu and Kashmir Governor recently dissolved the State Assembly. The reasons told for the dissolution were:

1. Government formed by parties with opposing political ideologies would not be stable.
2. Government failed to handle threats to internal security in the states.
3. Extensive horse trading

Which of the above Concerns is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) All of the above

3. Consider the following statements with reference to Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme?

1. It is a youth-friendly scheme for attracting youths to cooperative business ventures.
2. The scheme is linked to a Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF).
3. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year and having positive net-worth are eligible.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) All of the above

4. Consider the following statements about East Asia Summit (EAS):

1. It is an annual meeting of regional countries which has been started recently.
2. It is an ASEAN-centered forum which can only be chaired by an ASEAN member.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements with reference to World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index 2018:

1. The Doing Business report ranks countries on the basis of distance to frontier (DTF).
2. The World Bank has recognized India as one of the top improvers for the year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements with reference to Human Capital Index (HCI) that was recently in news:

1. It was recently released by World Bank.
2. It was first Human Capital Index (HCI) to be released.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

7. Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB), sometimes seen in the news, refers to:

(a) It is minimum fund that must be ensured under state capital fund for the wildlife conservation efforts in the state.

(b) It is the mandatory capital that financial institutions are required to hold above minimum regulatory requirement.

(c) It is a conservation initiative to secure regions surrounding National capital of India by making a buffer region.

(d) None of the above.

8. Which of the following is an Indian Credit Rating Agency?

1. CRISIL
2. ICRA
3. CARE
4. Standard & Poor's
5. Moody's
6. Fitch
7. ONICRA

Choose the correct code:

(a) 1, 2, and 3 (b) 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

(c) 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 7

9. Which state's State Election Commission recently made an order for local body polls that fresh elections should be held if NOTA 'emerges winner'?

(a) Uttar Pradesh

- (b) Assam
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Maharashtra

10. "General Consent", a Term recently seen in news is related to?

- (a) CBI
- (b) RBI
- (c) SEBI
- (d) Euthanasia

11. World Development Report, sometimes seen in the news is related to:

- (a) World Bank
- (b) IMF
- (c) United Nations Global Development Organization
- (d) Global Development Group

12. Consider the following statements with reference National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):

1. It is established as an independent regulator to oversee the auditing profession and accounting standards.
2. It consists of a Chairperson, three full time members and nine part-time members.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1 nor 2

13. Consider the following statements with reference to Legal Entity Identifier (LEI):

1. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code mandatory for all market participants, including individuals.
2. It is a 20 character global reference number conceived by G20.
3. Internationally LEI is implemented and maintained by Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) none of the above

14. Consider the following statement about Blue Economy:

1. Recently Sustainable Blue Economy conference was organized by India in New Delhi.
2. As per the World Bank, Blue Economy is the sustainable use of

ocean resources for economic growth.

3. India is trying to achieve the potential of Blue Economy by promoting the spirit of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) in Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) all of the above

15. Recently Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the operationalization strategy for Operation Greens. Which of the following is not covered under it?

- (a) Tomato
(b) Potato
(c) Onion
(d) Soya bean

16. Consider the following statements with reference to Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC):

1. Recently, Maharashtra became 1st state to end the monopoly of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and allow trade in farm commodities

including livestock outside the wholesale markets (mandis).

2. Presently, the marketing of agricultural commodities is governed by Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act enacted by respective State Governments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

17. Consider the following statements about Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme, seen in news:

1. It is one of the International Energy Agency's (IEA) transportation related Technology Collaboration Programme.
2. Its vision is to establish a sustainable transportation system that uses advanced, alternative and renewable fuels with reduced emissions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

18. Recently the Government of India launched a support and outreach Programme for:

- (a) Elderly People
- (b) Non-Banking Financial Institutions
- (c) Divyang People
- (d) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

19. Which of the following Credit and Financial Assistances initiative not related to MSMEs?

- (a) Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).
- (b) Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS).
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
- (d) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

20. Consider the following statements about INS Arihant:

1. It is India's first nuclear-powered submarine.
2. It has completed India's Nuclear Triad.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1 nor 2

21. Baba Kalyani committee recently seen in news is related to:

- (a) Ecological Sensitive Zone
- (b) Use of Pesticides
- (c) Special Economic Zone
- (d) Environmental Impact Assessment

22. Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, recently seen in News, is related to?

- (a) Migrant workers in Middle East.
- (b) Oil price hike by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
- (c) Mental illness.
- (d) Biodiversity

23. Consider the following statements about Greenhouse Gas Bulletin Report, Recently seen in News:

1. It is annually published by Inter governmental Panel on Climate change.
2. It is based on observations from the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch Programme (GAW).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1 nor 2

24. Consider the following findings of the quadrennial (four-yearly) review of the Montreal Protocol?

1. Actions taken under the Montreal Protocol have led to decreases in the atmospheric abundance of controlled ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) and the start of the recovery of stratospheric ozone.
2. There is concern in present review that the atmospheric abundances of both total tropospheric chlorine and total tropospheric bromine controlled under the Montreal Protocol have shown an increase since the 2014 Assessment.
3. Outside the Polar Regions, upper stratospheric ozone layer has recovered at a rate of 1-3% per decade since 2000.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

25. Consider the following statement with reference to Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS):

1. It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

2. The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services

Which of the above statements is are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

26. Inclusive Wealth Report, sometimes seen in news, is released by?

- (a) UN Environment
(b) World Bank
(c) International Labour Organization (ILO)
(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

27. Consider the following statements about Greater Flamingoes recently seen in news:

1. These come under 'Vulnerable' category of IUCN Red List
2. They are the indicators of healthy coastal environment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

28. Consider the some of the following findings of Living Planet Report, 2018 that was recently in news:

1. It is World Wide Fund for Nature's annual Report.
2. According to recently released Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

29. Identify the Wildlife Sanctuary with the given information:

1. It is situated in Andhra Pradesh near confluence of Godavari and Bay of Bengal and houses the second largest mangroves forest in India.
2. The Hope Island, Kakinada Port and this wildlife sanctuary come within Coastal Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
3. Historically, it has been a major port city which was used for the export of manpower during the time of British to Malaysia.

Which of the following is/are Correct?

- (a) Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary
(b) Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary
(c) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary
(d) Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary

30. Who among the following is not a member of the Financial Stability and Development Council?

- (a) Secretary, Department of Economic Affair.
(b) Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.
(c) Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(d) Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog

31. Consider the following statements about Section 7 of the RBI Act, 1934 that was recently in the news:

1. A similar provision has been built into the laws that govern regulatory bodies in other sectors.
2. It requires the Central Government to hold consultations with the Governor, prior to giving directions to the

RBI to take certain actions in public interest.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

32. Consider the following statement about Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS):

1. Its primary goal is to study earth's surface in visible near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of electromagnetic spectrum.
2. India is first to launch such type of satellite.
3. It has been launched by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

33. Consider the following statement about India's National IPR Policy:

1. The nodal agency to coordinate, guide and oversee implementation of IPRs is the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)

2. The policy will be reviewed every five years.
3. It commits India to reconciling its patent laws in accordance with such current international benchmarks that enable it to participate in several on-going multilateral trade negotiations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

34. Dubai Declaration, Recently seen in News, is related to:

- (a) Sustainable Development Goals
(b) Terrorism
(c) Desertification
(d) Peace in Afghanistan

35. USA recently revoked duty-free concessions on import of at least 50 Indian products which have been given earlier under its Generalized System of Preferences. These products belong to:

- (a) Renewable energy and agriculture sector
(b) Agriculture and handloom sector
(c) Pharmaceutical sector
(d) Refined petroleum and pharmaceutical sector

36. Consider the following statement with reference to Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP):

1. It has been launched under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
2. It is real time, village wise, case based electronic health information system with GIS tagging.
3. The objective behind setting up IHIP was to enable creation of interoperable Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 (d) All of the above

37. Recently New Caledonia held a referendum where 56.9% of voters chose not to be independent; it is an administered territory of:

- (a) Britain
(b) France
(c) Spain
(d) Portugal

38. Consider the following statements:

1. Global Wage Report (GWR) is an annual publication of International Labor Organization (ILO).

2. ILO also publishes World Investment Report.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

39. The Petroleum Explosives and Safety Organization (PESO), functions under the aegis of:

- (a) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(c) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
(d) Ministry of Mines

40. Consider the following Indian specific findings of Recent Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018, released in Bangkok:

1. India is the country with the highest number of 'stunted' children in the world.
2. India is the country with the highest number of children who are 'wasted'.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

41. Government of India signed a loan for Odisha Skill Development Project with:

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Asian Development Bank
- (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India.
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

42. Consider the following statements regarding Polavaram Project.

1. It is a multi-purpose irrigation project in Tamilnadu.
2. It is a project on river Godavari.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

43. CIMON sometimes seen in news is a:

- (a) Supercomputer
- (b) Robot
- (c) Drone
- (d) Artillery gun

44. Consider following statements:

1. India will host the G20 Summit In 2022.

2. G20 countries account approximately half of the world land area.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

45. Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is related to:

- (a) Coal
- (b) Diamond
- (c) Bamboo
- (d) Biofuels

46. Consider the following statements with reference to Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta:

1. It is the biggest military sailing competitive event in the world.
2. Its Ninth edition organised in Kerala.
3. Iran participated for the first time in it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only (d) All of the above

47. Consider the following statements regarding Train 18:

1. It is India's first engine-less train.
2. It is completely 'Make in India' project.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

48. 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at:

- (a) France
(b) Poland
(c) Germany
(d) Morocco

49. With reference to GSAT- 11, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's heaviest and most advanced satellite.
2. It was launched by NASA.
3. It is a communication satellite.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

50. The government is planning to set up a National Medical Devices Promotion Council. Consider the following statements with reference to this:

1. It will act as a facilitating, promotional & developmental body for the Indian Medical Devices Industry (MDI).
2. It will facilitate domestic manufacturers to rise to international level of understanding of regulatory and non-regulatory needs of the industry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

51. Ranbir Penal Code sometimes seen in news belongs to:

- (a) Assam
(b) Jammu and Kashmir
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Uttarakhand

52. Consider the following statement with reference to GSAT-7A:

1. It is a navigation satellite.
2. It was launched by GSLV-F11.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

53. With reference to ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by Ministry of environment, forest and climate change.
2. It is an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings.
3. It will benefit the occupants and the environment by promoting energy efficiency in design and construction.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only

54. Consider the following statements with reference to Kochi-Muziris Biennale:

1. It is an international exhibition of contemporary art.
2. It is the largest art exhibition in India and the biggest contemporary art festival in Asia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

55. Consider the following statements with reference to Partners' Forum:

1. It is a global health partnership.
2. Recently, for the first time India has hosted the Partners' Forum.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

56. With reference to Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), Consider following statements:

1. Its aim is to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas.
2. It aims to develop a cluster of Smart Villages.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

57. Consider the following statement with reference to the NATIONAL MISSION ON GOVERNMENT E-MARKET (GEM) PORTAL:

1. It will accelerate the adoption and use of Procurement by Major Central Ministries.

2. It highlights and communicate value add by way of transparency and efficiency in public procurement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

58. The Central Ground Water Authority notified revised guidelines for ground water extraction. Consider the following statements with reference to this:

1. Requirement of digital flow meters, piezometers and digital water level recorders is mandatory.
2. No Provision of action against polluting industries.
3. Encouraged use of recycled and treated sewage water by industries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) neither 1 nor 2

59. Consider the following statements with reference to ICESat-2:

1. It has been launched by NASA.
2. It will measure how much ice melt from Greenland and Antarctica contributes to rising sea levels.
3. It will measure forest height to calculate the amount of carbon stored in plants.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) All of the above

60. Consider the following statements about SAUBHAGYA Scheme:

1. It aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country.
2. Non-poor urban households are excluded from this scheme.

Which of the above choice is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

61. Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) report is published by:

- (a) World Bank
(b) World Wide Fund for Nature
(c) World economic forum (WEF)

(d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

62. Noney Bridge in India will come up in the:

(a) Western region

(b) Eastern region

(c) National Central region (NCR)

(d) North eastern region

63. Consider the following statements with reference to National Register of Citizens (NRC):

1. The register was first prepared after the 2011 Census of India.
2. Assam is the only state having an NRC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) neither 1 nor 2

64. Consider the following statement regarding Ensure Portal:

1. It will make the Direct Transfer Benefit better, simpler and transparent.
2. It is developed by SIDBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) neither 1 nor 2

65. Consider the following statements with reference to Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV):

1. The Indian Navy has inducted its DSRV System at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
2. It is developed by Scotland-based JFD.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) neither 1 nor 2

66. World's first floating nuclear plant will come up in:

(a) Russia

(b) China

(c) United States

(d) France

67. Consider the following statements about Global compact for migration (GCM):

1. It was adopted recently in Marrakech for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2. It is a voluntary and non-binding document.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

68. The government has approved a slew of measures under the National Pension Scheme (NPS), Consider following statements regarding this:

1. There is freedom of choice for selection of Pension Funds and pattern of investment for government employees.
2. Mandatory contribution by the Central Government enhanced by 4 percent.
3. All the withdrawal will now be exempt from income tax.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) All of the above

69. PCS 1x is related to:

- (a) Agricultural pollution
(b) Maritime trade
(c) Sustainable development

(d) Satellite mission

70. Hand-in-Hand Military exercise held recently between:

- (a) Nepal and India
(b) Russia and India
(c) China and India
(d) Indonesia and India

71. Consider the following statements about Eco-Sensitive Zones:

1. These areas notified by the National green tribunal.
2. The Environment Protection Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-sensitive Zones".

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

72. Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant is situated in:

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
(b) Karnataka
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Odisha

73. With reference to Agni – V, Consider the following statements:

1. It is India's longest-range ballistic missile.
2. It is a part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

74. Consider the following statements Karma Kagyu School:

1. Its lineage belongs to Hinduism.
2. It mainly emphasize on meditation and the realization of the direct experience of mind.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

75. Dead Sea Scrolls recently seen in news is:

- (a) Newly discovered mountain range
(b) Ancient Manuscript
(c) Type of coral reefs
(d) None of the above

76. Consider the following statements with reference to the Ape Fossil:

1. It has been recently unearthed in Rajasthan.
2. It is the oldest and the only known ape fossil discovered in peninsular India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

77. The first International conference on sustainable water management was recently organized in:

- (a) India
(b) USA
(c) Madagascar
(d) Seychelles

78. Consider the following statements about Ideate for India recently seen in news:

1. It is a national challenge to students of classes 1 to 5.
2. It is designed and launched by the National e-Governance Division in collaboration with Facebook.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

issues with a focus on inclusive growth.

79. Chang'e-4 mission to explore the far side of the Moon is launched by:

(a) China

(b) USA

(c) Russia

(d) Europe

80. With reference to State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project, consider the following statements:

1. World Bank will provide assistance to this project.
2. Its aim to revamp agricultural value chains, with special focus on marginal farmers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

81. Consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of environment forest and climate change has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance.
2. Soch group is a think tank dealing with socio-economic

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) neither 1 nor 2

82. Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) Council approves India's proposal to observe 2023 as:

(a) International year of Millets

(b) International year of Fruits

(c) International year of Pulses

(d) International year of Bamboo

83. Consider the following statements regarding Clean Sea- 2018:

1. It is a National Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise
2. It was conducted by India navy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) neither 1 nor 2

84. Consider the following statement with reference to 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon':

1. NITI Aayog in partnership with Singapore based Artificial Intelligence (AI) start-up has launched this Hackathon.
2. Its objective is to promote awareness and develop solutions to address challenges in AI algorithms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

85. 50/50 milestone recently seen in news is related to:

- (a) Environmental cleanliness.
(b) Electricity production using solar energy.
(c) Infrastructure Development.
(d) Internet use.

86. Consider the following statements with reference to Mayurbhanj Chhau:

1. It belongs to Bengal.
2. It uses Mask during dance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

87. Consider the following statements regarding Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana:

1. It offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits.
2. Employee's autonomous bodies are not eligible for the scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

88. Consider the following statements with reference to Green Ganga App:

1. It is developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It is used for geo-tagging of saplings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

89. Witness Protection Scheme is recently seen in news; consider the following statements with reference to this:

1. It envisages that witnesses and accused do not come face to face during investigation or trial.
2. The scheme extends to the whole of the India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

90. Kamsale recently seen in news is:

- (a) Music
(b) Dance
(c) Puppetry
(d) Painting

91. Consider the following statements about Agriculture Export Policy:

1. It aimed at doubling the agricultural exports.
2. It strives to promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.
3. It will enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only (d) All of the above

92. World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report is released by:

- (a) International Intellectual Property Alliance
(b) Association of Intellectual Property Firms
(c) World Trade organisation
(d) World Intellectual Property Organization

93. India's Largest Floating Solar Project is in:

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
(b) Karnataka
(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Gujarat

94. With reference to Global Carbon Project, Consider following statements:

1. It is a recently launched project.
2. It was founded as a partnership among the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the World Climate Programme etc.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

95. Consider the following statements choices regarding National Integration tour:

1. It is educational and motivational tours.
2. It is only for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States.
3. It aims to provide an insight into the rich heritage of the country as well as various developmental and industry initiatives.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) all of the above

96. Consider following statements regarding ExseedSAT 1 making news recently:

1. It is India's 1st private satellite.
2. It is launched into space by Space X
3. It is a weather forecast satellite.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 only (d) all of the above

97. Consider the following statements with reference to National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems:

1. It is a pan India mission.

2. It aims at establishment of Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), Application Innovation Hubs (AIH).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

98. Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric), famous for its healing properties belongs to:

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) Odisha
(c) Telangana
(d) Chattisgarh

99. Consider the following statements about Rat kangaroos making news recently:

1. It is found only in the rainforests of northeast Australia.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN red list.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) neither 1 nor 2

100. A recently constituted Rajiv Kumar committee is related to:

- (a) Oil and gas field

(b) Agriculture

(c) Restructuring of PSBs

(d) Marine pollution

ONLYAS

Explanation

1. Answer (c) only 3 and 4 is correct.

- **It was in News because recently,** A claim of 'breach of privilege' was raised against chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on finance, for "lowering the dignity and ethics of the Finance Committee" by tweeting about the committee's deliberations
- The concept of privileges emerged from the **British House of Commons** when a nascent British Parliament started to protect its sovereignty from excesses of the monarch. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The Constitution (under Art. 105 for Parliament, its members & committees /Art. 194 for State Legislature, its members & committees) confers certain privileges on legislative institutions and their members. **Hence, statement 1 is also NOT correct.**
- Whenever any of these rights and immunities is disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament. However, there are no objective guidelines on what constitutes breach of privilege and what punishment it entails. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Currently, there is no law that codifies all the privileges of the legislators in India. Privileges are based on five sources: i) Constitutional provisions ii) Various laws of parliament (iii) Rules of both the houses iv) Parliamentary conventions v) Judicial interpretations **Hence, statement 4 is also correct.**

2. Answer (b) 1 and 3 only

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor recently dissolved the State Assembly (which has been in suspended animation) when two political parties separately staked claim to form a government.
- The reasons for the dissolution were: the "**extensive horse trading**" and the possibility that a **government formed by parties with "opposing political ideologies"** would not be stable.
- The move is being seen as harmful for democracy as J&K's relationship with the Centre is rooted in constitutional safeguards as well as in the participation of its major parties in electoral politics and parliamentary democracy.

Constitutional provisions

- Article 172 says that every Legislative Assembly of every State, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years.

- Article 174 (2) (b) of the Indian Constitution merely states that the Governor may, from time to time, dissolve the Legislative Assembly.
- Article 356 (“President’s rule”): In case of failure of constitutional machinery in State the President, on receipt of report from the Governor of the State or otherwise,
 1. may assume to himself the functions of the Government of the State
 2. declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament
- With Respect to J&K Constitution: The powers under Section 92 (failure of constitutional machinery) and Section 52 (provides for dissolution of assembly) were invoked for this move.

3. Answer (d) all are correct

- Union Agriculture Minister launched National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)’s new scheme ‘Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme’.
- Purpose: To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, NCDC has come up with this youth-friendly scheme for attracting them to cooperative business ventures. It would encourage

cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.

- CSIF fund: The scheme will be linked to a ‘Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)’ created by the NCDC with an annual outlay of Rs 100 crore and it has special incentive for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women/SC/ST/PwD members.
- Funding: The funding for the project will be up to 80% of the project cost for the special categories as against 70% for others. The scheme envisages 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal.
- Eligibility: All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year and having positive net-worth are eligible.

4. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- Recently, India participated in the 13th East Asia Summit, held in Singapore. About East Asia Summit (EAS)
- It is an annual meeting of regional countries which was started in 2005 (NOT Recently). **Hence statement 1 is NOT Correct.**

- It is an ASEAN-centred forum which can only be chaired by an ASEAN member. **Hence statement 2 is Correct.**

- The members include 10 Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) nations plus 8 other nations such as Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the US.

- The EAS membership represents around 54% of the world's population and accounts for 58% of global GDP.

5. Answer (c) both is correct

- India jumped 23 ranks in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index 2018 to 77 from 100 in 2017 among 190 nations.

- **The Doing Business report ranks countries on the basis of distance to frontier (DTF),** a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. **Hence statement 1 is Correct.**

- The World Bank has recognized India as one of the top improvers for the year. This year, India features among the report's list of top 10 improvers for the second year in a row and only one in BRICS to feature in this list. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**

- India is seeking to reach the 30th position by 2020, according to an

output-outcome framework document prepared by the government.

- It will help India maintain its goal of strong and sustained economic growth, attract more FDI, achieve sound living standards and moderate inflation.

- The Doing Business 2019 report bases the rankings on field surveys and interviews with corporate lawyers and company executives in Delhi and Mumbai.

6. Answer (c) both is correct.

- Recently, first Human Capital Index (HCI) was released by World Bank.

Hence, statement 1 and 2 is correct.

About HCI

- The HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health.

- HCI is part of the World Development Report (WDR). As part of this report, the World Bank has launched a Human Capital Project (HCP).

- Human Capital Project (HCP): A program of advocacy, measurement, and analytical work to raise awareness and increase demand for interventions

to build human capital. The HCP has three components:

- a) Cross-country metric—the Human Capital Index (HCI).
- b) Program of measurement and research to inform policy action.
- c) Program of support for country strategies to accelerate investment in human capital.

7. Answer (b) it is the mandatory capital that financial institutions are required to hold above minimum regulatory requirement.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to extend the deadline for implementing last tranche of an additional 0.625% to be set aside as capital conservation buffer, required under the Basel III norms, by a year (upto March 31, 2020).

What is Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)?

- It is the mandatory capital that financial institutions are required to hold above minimum regulatory requirement. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- According to CCB norms, banks will be required to hold a buffer of 2.5% Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) in the form of Common Equity, over and above Capital Adequacy Ratio of 9%.

- CCB currently stands at 1.875% and remaining 0.625% was to be met by March 2019.

8. Answer (d) 1, 2, 3 and 7

- Credit rating agencies in India: Currently there are six credit rating agencies in India which are registered under SEBI namely-CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, SME. **Hence choices 1, 2, 3 and 7 are correct.**

CRISIL: It stands for Credit Rating information Services of India Ltd and is the first credit rating agency set up in India in 1987. Currently headquartered in Mumbai, it not provides ratings to the agencies but also provides policy advisory services to the clients. Majority of its shareholders held by Standard's and Poor's, which is one of the biggest credit rating agencies of the world. Besides India, it has expanded its operations to US, Poland, Argentina; Hong Kong, China, Singapore etc.

ICRA: It was set up in 1991 as Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency. However, it was renamed as ICRA Ltd and was listed in the Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange in 2007. Currently its headquarters are in Gurugram, Haryana. It caters to domestic organizations only with a prime focus on ratings of MSMEs and

does not have any global presence.

CARE: It was established in 1993 as Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. Headquartered in Mumbai, it is the second largest credit rating agency of India. It gives rating to debt instruments, claim paying ability of insurance companies, corporate governance etc.

SMERA: Founded in 2005, SMERA stands for Small and medium enterprises rating agency of India. It works exclusively for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and has more than 350000 enterprises under it.

ONICRA: Onicra credit rating agency of India Ltd is a private rating agency headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana. It was established in 1993 and provides credit ratings, risk assessment and other support services to corporate, MSMEs etc.

Fitch India: Headquartered in Mumbai, it is a major financial information service provider and rating agency having a global presence in more than 30 countries. It is 100% owned subsidiary of Fitch India.

International rating agencies: Below three are American financial services companies. Today these three are called as 'Big Three Credit Rating Agency' and control more than 90% of the credit ratings market.

Standard & Poor's: It is the oldest credit rating agency of the world which started

its operations in 1860 by Henry Poor.

The 'standard' part was set up in 1906 and both the organizations were merged in 1940s and came to be called as Standard & Poor. Today it stands as the biggest rating agency with headquarters at New York. It rates borrowers on a scale from AAA to D, with AAA being the highest rating and D being the lowest.

Moody's: It was founded in 1909 by John Moody to produce manual of statistics related to bonds and stocks. It is only in 1975 that it was identified as Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization by US. It rates debt securities which includes government or corporate bonds and does research in risk management. The securities are assigned the rating from Aaa to C with Aaa being the highest quality and C of the lowest quality.

Fitch: It was founded by John Knowles Fitch in 1914 as the Fitch Publishing company. It got identified as Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization in 1975 by US. It has dual headquarters at New York as well as UK (London). It is the smallest among big three credit rating agencies and covers more limited market.

9. Answer (d) Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra State Election Commission (MSEC)** recently made an order for local body polls that fresh

elections should be held if NOTA 'emerges winner'. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

About NOTA

- It was introduced in India following the 2013 Supreme Court directive. It is an option the voting machine, designed to allow voters to disapprove all the candidates while delivering their vote.
- However, NOTA in India does not provide for a 'right to reject'. The candidate with the maximum votes wins the election irrespective of the number of NOTA votes polled.
- The NOTA votes have not been accounted while calculating votes polled by candidates for making them eligible (1/6th of valid votes) for getting back their security deposits.
- An Association of Democratic Reforms analysis says that since 2013 till March 2018, NOTA have secured a total of 1.33 crores votes from all assemblies and Lok Sabha polls combined.
- Election Commission currently has no plenary power to call a fresh election even if NOTA secure highest votes.
- To give greater sanctity to NOTA and even order a fresh election, Rule 64 of Conduct of Election Rules will have to be amended and can be done by the law

ministry. It will not require Parliament sanction.

10. Answer (a) CBI

- Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have withdrawn the "general consent" granted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effectively curtailing the agency's powers in the States without prior permission. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
- The CBI which is under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, will now have to approach the State government for permission for investigation on a case by case basis.
- It is not the first time. Over the years, several states had also withdrawn consent for some time.

What is General Consent?

- Given that the CBI has jurisdiction only over central government departments and employees, it can investigate a case involving state government employees or a violent crime in a given state only after that state government gives its consent. Thus, it gets a general consent instead of a case-specific consent to avoid taking permission each time.
- The general consent is normally given for periods ranging from six months to a year.

11. Answer (a) World Bank

- Recently, **World Bank** released World Development Report with a theme The Changing Nature of Work. **Hence statement (b) is correct.**
- **United Nations Global Development Organization** is a non-profitable international organization facilitating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals globally.
- **Global Development Group** is a Non-Government Organization [NGO] carrying out humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty.

12. Answer (c) both is Correct.

- Recently, government notified the rules determining the jurisdiction, powers, and functions of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

Why the need arises for NFRA?

- The recent failure of ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) to spot corporates fraud raised the demand for setting up of an independent regulator NFRA. Credit rating agencies in India:
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies)

Regulations, 1999 empower SEBI to regulate CRAs operating in India.

What is NFRA?

- It is established as an independent regulator to oversee the auditing profession and accounting standards. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It consists of a Chairperson, three full time members and nine part-time members. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**
- Chairperson and full-time members would be selected through a search-cum-selection committee headed by Cabinet Secretary.

13. Answer (b) only 2 and 3 is correct.

- Recently, Reserve Bank of India has made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code mandatory for all market participants, **other than individuals. Hence statement 1 NOT is correct.**

What is LEI?

- It is a 20 character global reference number conceived by G20 that uniquely identifies every legal entity or structure that is party to a financial transaction, in any jurisdiction. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Internationally LEI is implemented and maintained by Global Legal Entity

Identifier Foundation through Local Operation Units (LOU) established by each country independently and voluntarily. **Hence statement 3 is also correct.**

- LEI information is publicly available free of charge and It is reviewed, updated and validated annually by LOUs.

- In India entities can obtain LEI from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd (LEIL) (only LOU of India), subsidiary of The Clearing Corporation of India Ltd, recognized by RBI under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007..

14. Answer (b) only 2 and 3 is Correct.

- Recently Sustainable Blue Economy conference was organized in Nairobi, Kenya. **Hence statement 1 is NOT correct.**

- As per the World Bank, Blue Economy is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- It covers several sectors linked directly or indirectly to the oceans such as fishing, minerals, shipping and port infrastructure, marine biotechnology, marine renewable energy, marine

tourism, ocean governance and education.

- India is trying to achieve the potential of Blue Economy by promoting the spirit of 'SAGAR-Security and Growth for All in the Region' in Indian Ocean Region.

Hence statement 3 is also correct.

15. Answer (d) Soya bean

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens (Central Sector Scheme). **Hence option (d) is wrong.**

- Operation Greens was announced in the Budget speech of 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs 500 crores to stabilize the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

16. Answer (b) only 2 is Correct

- Maharashtra became 2nd state (**NOT 1st**) after Bihar to end the monopoly of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and allow trade in farm commodities including livestock outside the wholesale markets (mandis). **Hence statement 1 is NOT correct.**

- Presently, the marketing of agricultural commodities is governed by Agricultural Produce Market Committee

(APMC) Act enacted by respective State Governments. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

17. Answer (c) both is Correct

- **It was in news because,** Recently, Cabinet was apprised that India is joining Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme as a member.

- It is one of the International Energy Agency's (IEA) transportation related Technology Collaboration Programme.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

- Its vision is to establish a sustainable transportation system that uses advanced, alternative, and renewable. .

Hence statement 2 is also correct.

- It will help Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to get sound scientific information and technology assessments to make informed decision making about using advanced fuels.

- Under this, the R&D work is carried out within individual projects called "Annex" which enable members to cooperate in groups that share common interests.

- Other member countries of AMF TCP are USA, China, Japan, Canada, Chile, Israel, Thailand, Republic of Korea etc.

About IEA

- It is an autonomous body within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) framework established in the wake of 1973 oil crisis.

- It works to ensure reliable, affordable & clean energy for its member countries and beyond.

- Its four main areas of focus are energy security, economic development, environmental awareness, and engagement worldwide.

- An IEA Member country must be a member country of the OECD, but not all OECD members are members of the IEA.

- Apart from 30 members, it has 8 association members including India.

18. Answer (d) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The Government of India launched a support and outreach initiative for greater synergy to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

- MSME Outreach Programme will run for 100 days covering 100 Districts throughout the country

- Various Central Ministers are likely to visit these districts in order to apprise the entrepreneurs about various

facilities being extended to MSME Sector by the Government and financial institutions and to come forward and make best use of these facilities including access to credit and market, etc.

19. Answer (a) Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

- **MEIS** was launched under Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP) 2015-20. It is one of the two schemes introduced in FP 2015-20, as part of Exports from India Scheme. The other scheme is Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS). Objective of MEIS is to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in export of goods and products, which are produced and manufactured in India.

Credit and Financial Assistances to MSMEs

- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** is aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth.

- **Credit Guarantee Scheme** for Micro and Small Enterprises covers collateral free credit facility (term loan and/or working capital) extended by eligible

lending institutions including Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to new and existing micro and small enterprises up to 2 crore per borrowing unit.

- **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS)** aims at facilitating technology upgradation of the MSME sector.

- The Government has also initiated the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** for development and refinancing activities relating to micro industrial units.

20. Answer (c) both is correct

- The indigenous INS Arihant, India's first nuclear-powered submarine successfully completed its first deterrence patrol, meaning that the submarine is fully ready for its role as a strategic deterrent. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- With the completion of the patrol, India has finally achieved the longstanding ambition to have a nuclear triad, giving the country multiple options if it comes to a nuclear confrontation. **Hence statement 2 is also correct.**

- A nuclear triad refers to the three components of atomic weapons delivery: strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

- Of the three elements of the triad, the SLBMs are considered the most important because the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine is the hardest to detect, track and destroy.

- A nuclear triad gives a country the ability to launch nukes from land, air and sea. This is important, because if a country initiates a nuclear attack, it cannot destroy all three components of the triad at once, and thus, the component which is intact can launch a retaliatory strike.

21. Answer (c) Special Economic Zone

- The Baba Kalyani committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry **to study the existing SEZ policy** of India submitted its report to the government. **Hence option (c) is correct.**

Performance of SEZ

- As on 31st March, 2018, there were a total of 223 Operational SEZs against 355 notified SEZs in the country.
- Total Investment in SEZs (as on 31st March, 2018) amounted 4.75 lakh crore and it has generated close to 20 lakh jobs.
- Exports from SEZs amounted nearly 5.81 lakh crore in 2017-18, which is

higher from 5.23 lakh crore in 2016-17 and 4.67 lakh crore in 2015-16.

22. Answer (d) Biodiversity.

- Recently, Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held, adopting Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration. **Hence option (d) is Correct.**

- Adoption of Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet. Governments commit to mainstream biodiversity through, integrating biodiversity values in legislative and policy frameworks, and development and finance plans.

- New Deal for Nature: It is an agreement on a comprehensive and participatory process to develop post-2020 global biodiversity framework to further achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

- Launch of International Alliance of Nature and Culture to advance work on biological and cultural diversity in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and indigenous peoples and local communities.

- It called for UN General Assembly to designate 2021 to 2030 as the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

23. Answer (b) Only 2 is correct.

- Greenhouse Gas Bulletin report is published annually on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases by **WMO not IPCC. (Hence statement 1 in NOT correct)**
- It is based on observations from the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch Programme (GAW), which tracks the changing levels of greenhouse gases as a result of industrialization, energy use from fossil fuel sources, intensified agricultural practices, increases in land use and deforestation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Key Findings of the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin-2018

- Carbon dioxide is the main long-lived greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Concentrations reached 405.5 ppm in 2017, 146% of the pre-industrial era (before 1750).
- Methane (CH₄) is the second most important long-lived greenhouse gas and is now 257% of the pre-industrial level.
- Atmospheric concentration of Nitrous oxide (N₂O) in 2017 was 329.9 parts per billion. This is 122% of pre-industrial levels.

- CFC-11 (trichlorofluoromethane): Since 2012 its rate of decline has slowed to roughly two thirds of its rate of decline during the preceding decade.

24. Answer (c) only 1 and 3 is correct

- The quadrennial (four-yearly) review of the Montreal Protocol reveals a healing ozone layer, global warming reduction potential, and options for more ambitious climate action.

Key findings of the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018

- Actions taken under the Montreal Protocol have led to decreases in the atmospheric abundance of controlled ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) and the start of the recovery of stratospheric ozone. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The atmospheric abundances of both total tropospheric chlorine and total tropospheric bromine from long-lived ODSs controlled under the Montreal Protocol have continued to decline since the 2014 Assessment. **Hence statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- Outside the Polar Regions, upper stratospheric ozone layer has recovered at a rate of 1-3% per decade since 2000. **Hence statement 3 is also correct.**
- The Antarctic ozone hole is recovering, while continuing to occur every year. As

a result of the Montreal Protocol much more severe ozone depletion in the Polar Regions has been avoided.

- At projected rates, Northern Hemisphere and midlatitude ozone is scheduled to heal completely (i.e. equivalent to 1980 values) by the 2030s followed by the Southern Hemisphere in the 2050s and Polar Regions by 2060.

- The Kigali Amendment is projected to reduce future global average warming in 2100 due to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from a baseline of 0.3–0.5 degree Celsius to less than 0.1 degree Celsius.

25. Answer (c) both is correct.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of the nine sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme “Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)” during 2017-2020 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1450 crore.

- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service(INCOIS).

- The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services like Public weather service, disaster management, Agro-meteorological Services, Aviation services, Environmental monitoring services, Hydro-meteorological services, climate services, tourism, pilgrimage, power generation, water management, Sports & adventure etc.

26. Answer (a) UN Environment

- The inclusive wealth of one-third of the countries in the world has declined, but their gross domestic product (GDP) has increased, finds the Inclusive Wealth Report 2018 presented by the UN Environment. Highlights of the Report

- **About the Index:** The Inclusive Wealth Report is a biennial report that seeks to evaluate and report on a country's wealth and wellbeing through the Inclusive Wealth index (IWI). IWI is intended as a replacement to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Human Development Index (HDI) which assesses a nation's ability to look after its wealth in a way that is sustainable and safeguards its future generations.

- **Methodology:** It does this through tracking the progress of 140 countries that make up the lion's share of the

global economy and population. The changes in the inclusive wealth of 140 countries are calculated by annual average growth rates over the past 25 years, and 1990 is set as a base year.

- **Inclusive Wealth and SDG:** The report demonstrates that assessing and valuing natural capital and the change in per capita inclusive/comprehensive wealth over time has the potential to keep track of progress on most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It considers the relationship between inclusive wealth and the SDGs, arguing that governments need to have a way to check whether or not the economic measures they take to meet the SDGs jeopardize the sustainability of the Goals.

- **Global Structure of Capital:** As of 2014 has composed of produced capital (21%), human capital (59% of which 26% education induced human capital and 33% is health induced human capital), and natural capital (20%).

- **Growth rate:** The global level growth of each of the three capitals over the study period indicate that produced capital was growing at an average rate of 3.8% per year and health and education induced human capital was growing at 2.1%. Contrary, natural

capital was decreasing at a rate of 0.7% per annum

27. Answer (c) both is correct

- Recently Greater Flamingoes have been spotted on the Coast of Hope Island, a part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, after a gap of 25 years.

About Greater Flamingoes

- These come under 'Vulnerable' (Unlisted from near threatened in 2018) category of IUCN Red List. **Hence statement 1 is Correct.**

- They prefer shallow brackish lakes & use mudflats & salt pans for nesting.

- They are the indicators of healthy coastal environment. **Hence statement 2 is Correct.**

- They are filter feeders (take prey and water together and then filter out water) and get their characteristic pink colour from their diet of brine shrimps and algae available in the coastal wetlands.

28. Answer (b) only 2 is correct

- According to recently released Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India among nations that face grave danger to

soil biodiversity. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- The atlas was released as part of WWF's biennial (Not Annual) Living Planet Report (LPR) 2018. The key aspect of this year's report was threat to soil biodiversity and pollinators, the two key drivers of biodiversity. **Hence statement 1 is NOT correct.**

Highlights of report

- Soil Biodiversity: It encompasses presence of micro-organisms, micro-fauna (nematodes and tardigrades for example), and macro-fauna (ants, termites and earthworms).
- Millions of microbial and animal species live and make up soils, from bacteria and fungi to mites, beetles and earthworms. Soil biodiversity, thus is total community from genes to species, and varies depending on environment.
- The immense diversity in soil allows for great variety of ecosystem services that benefit species that inhabit it, the species that use it and its surrounding environment.
- WWF's 'risk index' for globe: It indicated threats from loss of above-ground diversity, pollution and nutrient over-loading, over-grazing, intensive agriculture, fire, soil erosion, desertification and climate change.

- India was coloured red on atlas and is among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk. Other countries in this category include Pakistan, China, several countries in Africa and Europe, and most of North America.

29. Answer (c) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Recently** Greater Flamingoes have been spotted on the Coast of Hope Island, a part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, after a gap of 25 years.

About Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS):

- It is situated in Andhra Pradesh near confluence of Godavari and Bay of Bengal and houses the second largest mangroves forest in India.
- The Hope Island, Kakinada Port and CWLS come within Coastal Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- Historically, Coringa has been a major port city which was used for the export of manpower during the time of British to Malaysia. The successors of those migrants are called Korangis there.

30. Answer (d) Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog

- The Union Government has reconstituted Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to include secretaries from revenue department as well as Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY).
- It will include Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). This decision will make FSDC more broad-based to incorporate changes in economic regulatory framework of the country.
- Its members are heads of financial sector regulatory authorities (i.e, RBI, SEBI, IRDA, PFRDA), Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser.

31. Answer- (c) both is correct.

- Amid tensions between the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the former has reportedly initiated steps towards invoking its powers under Section 7 of the RBI Act of 1934.
- It is a provision under which the government can give directions to the RBI to take certain actions “in the public interest”.

- This provision has been built into the law governing not just the RBI but also regulatory bodies in other sectors.
- Under Section 7, “The Central Government may from time to time give such directions to the Bank as it may, after consultation with the Governor of the Bank, consider necessary in the public interest.
- Subject to any such directions, the general superintendence and direction of the affairs and business of the Bank shall be entrusted to a Central Board of Directors which may exercise all powers and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Bank.”

32. Answer (c) 1 and 3 only

- **Second statement is wrong because** globally so far, very few space agencies have such a satellite (so India is not first to launch it).
- ISRO’s PSLV C43 launched India's first Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) along with 30 foreign satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- HysIS is an earth observation satellite built around ISRO’s Mini Satellite-2 (IMS-2) bus.
- It is India’s first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced earth observation developed indigenously by ISRO.
- It combines the power of digital imaging and spectroscopy to attain both

spatial and spectral information from an object.

- This result can be then used to identify, measure and locate different materials and their chemical and physical properties. Every pixel in the image contains a continuous spectrum (in radiance or reflectance) and can be used to characterize the objects in the scene with great precision and detail.

33. Answer (a) only 1 and 2 is correct.

• **Third statement is wrong because** The government has indicated that there is no urgent need to change patent laws that are already fully World Trade Organization-compliant. So India has resisted pressure from the US and other Western countries to amend its patent laws.

34. Answer (a) Sustainable Development Goals

- At the conclusion of the UN World Data forum, 2018, 'Dubai Declaration' was adopted.
- It is hard to measure the actual progress of the SDGs due to lack of data for two-thirds of the indicators. Only 0.3% of aid goes to the development of statistical systems.
- Recognizing this, Dubai Declaration was adopted which detailed measures to boost funding for data and statistical

analysis for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the 2030 SDGs.

- Aimed towards mobilizing domestic and international funds and activating more effective data partnerships, this Declaration supports the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

35. Answer (b) Agriculture and handloom sector.

- The U.S. on Thursday revoked duty-free concessions on import of at least 50 Indian products, mostly from handloom and agriculture sectors, reflecting the Trump administration's tough stand on trade-related issues with New Delhi.
- The federal register issued a notification, listing out 90 products which were so far subject to duty-free provisions under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
- U.S. President Donald Trump issued a presidential proclamation on Tuesday, leading to the removal of these products from the privilege beginning November 1.
- As of November 1, these products "will no longer qualify for duty-free preferences under the GSP programme but may continue to be imported subject to regular Most Favored Nation

duty-rates,” an official of U.S. Trade Representative told PTI.

- A review of the products indicates that the presidential proclamation is not country specific, but product specific. With India being the largest beneficiary of the GSP, it has been hit the most by the latest decision of the Trump administration.

36. Answer (d) All of the above

- Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) was launched in 7 states.
- It is real time, village wise; case based electronic health information system with GIS tagging which will help in prompt prevention and control of epidemic prone diseases.
- It will provide near-real-time data to policy makers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.
- The objective behind setting up IHIP was to enable creation of interoperable Electronic Health Records (EHRs) which can be made available and accessible throughout the country.
- Information from other branches like tuberculosis control programme,

maternal and child health programme and noncommunicable disease programme also will be included in this platform.

37. Answer (b) France

- Since 1986, the United Nations Committee on Decolonization has included New Caledonia on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. An independence referendum was held the following year, but independence was rejected by a large majority.
- Under the Nouméa Accord, signed in 1998 following a period of secessionist unrest in the 1980s and approved in a referendum, New Caledonia held a second referendum on independence on 4 November 2018, where 56.9% of voters chose to remain with France.
- New Caledonia has large deposits of nickel, a vital component in manufacturing electronics, and is seen by France as a strategic political and economic asset in the region.

38. Answer (a) only 1 is correct

- **Second statement is Incorrect because** The ***World Investment Report*** has been **published** annually since 1991 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

- The **report** focuses on trends in foreign direct **investment** (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution.

39. Answer (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- **Petroleum And Explosives Safety**

Organization (PESO) is the department formed by Government of India to control and administer the usage of explosives, petrol stations in India.

- The Department is headed by Chief Controller of Explosives and is headquartered at Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra in India.

- The agency has framed various rules like Petroleum Rules 2002 for the safe operation of petrol stations, Explosive Rules 1983, Gas Cylinder Rules 2002 (applicable to all states), and Static & Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) 1981 for LPG Vessels. It functions under Department Of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

40. Answer (c) both 1 and 2 are correct

- Recently the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018, released in Bangkok, notes that the global burden of malnutrition “remains unacceptably high and

progress unacceptably slow”

India specific findings

- India is facing a major malnutrition crisis as it is the country with the highest number of ‘stunted’ children in the world. Out of the total 150.8 million children in the world who are stunted, India is home to 46.6 million, followed by Nigeria (13.9 million) and Pakistan (10.7 million).

- India is also the country with the highest number of children who are ‘wasted’ (low weight for height, indicating severe weight loss), an even more severe indicator of acute malnutrition. o India has half of the global wasting burden (25.5 million children — out of the 50.5 million children who are wasted globally) followed by Nigeria, and Indonesia.

- India is also among the countries with more than a million children who are overweight.

- As for the nutrition status of children and adolescents aged between five and 19 years, 58.1 per cent of boys were underweight while 50.1 per cent girls were underweight. This difference between the genders can likely be attributed to India’s adverse sex ratio in the first place.

- As for the rural-urban divide, 40.7 per cent of children under five years of age were stunted in rural India while 30.6 per cent of children were stunted in urban India, while 21.1 per cent children aged under five were wasted in rural areas and 19.9 per cent were wasted in urban areas.

41. Answer (b) Asian Development Bank

- The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$85 million loan.**
- This is to **improve the skill development eco-system in Odisha and establish, the World Skill Center (WSC), an advanced skill training center in Bhubaneswar.**
- ADB will also administer a \$2 million technical assistance grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, financed by the Government of Japan.
- The project will make them more relevant to industry and will impart advanced occupation-ready skills training aligned with international standards.
- It will help over 150,000 people learn skills in priority sectors, including manufacturing, construction and services for formal employment.

42. Answer (a) 1 only

- **First statement is incorrect** because Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project in **Andhra Pradesh**
- **It was in news because** the Supreme Court, hearing a petition on the status of Polavaram multi-purpose project, has ordered the Centre to hold a public hearing in the project affected area in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The Centre replied saying it was ready to appoint an independent agency to conduct the same.

✓ Issue?

- The Polavaram project was accorded national status in 2014 in the Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation Act and its design was changed. The petitioner had told the court that since the dam design has been changed and new components were added, it'd require a new environmental clearance.

43. Answer (b) Robot

- It is **1st Robot with Artificial Intelligence to Fly in Space.**
- **CIMON** is a small robot endowed with artificial intelligence (AI) launched on a two-day trip to the International Space Station aboard **SpaceX's Dragon cargo capsule.**
- **CIMON was developed by the European aerospace company Airbus**

on behalf of the German space agency.
The **robot's AI is IBM's famous Watson system.**

- CIMON is roughly spherical and weighs 11 lbs. (5 kilograms). The **robot can converse with people**, and it knows whom it's talking to thanks to facial-recognition software.

44. Answer (c) both 1 and 2

- India will host the G20 Summit In 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence. It will be the first meet of the global grouping in India.
- Founded in 1999, the G20 brings together 19 of the world's most industrialised nations and the European Union. Annual meetings of its country's leaders have been taking place since 2008.
- G-20 members comprise Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US.
- Collectively, the G20 economies account for around **90% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade** (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), **two-thirds of the world population**, and **approximately half of the world land area.**

45. Answer (b) Diamond

- India will Chair Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) from January 2019. It was handed Chairmanship by the European Union during KPCS Plenary 2018, which was held in Brussels, Belgium.

- **India is founding member of KPCS.**

✓ What is the Kimberley Process?

- The **Kimberley Process is an international certification scheme that regulates trade in rough diamonds.** It aims to prevent the flow of **conflict diamonds**, while helping to protect legitimate trade in rough diamonds.
- The **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) outlines the rules that govern the trade in rough diamonds.**
- The KP is not, strictly speaking, an international organisation: it has no permanent offices or permanent staff. It relies on the contributions – under the principle of 'burden-sharing' – of participants, supported by industry and civil society observers. Neither can the KP be considered as an international agreement from a legal perspective, as it is implemented through the national legislations of its participants.

✓ What are Conflict diamonds?

- **"Conflict Diamonds"** means **rough**

diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments. It is also described in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

46. Answer d) All of the above

- The ninth edition of the Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta, the biggest military sailing competitive event in the world as far as the number of participating countries are concerned, is being held at **Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala in Kerala**. A total of 32 teams, including 30 from foreign countries are taking part in the event.
- It was in **2010 that the Indian Navy instituted the 'Admiral's Cup Regatta'** as a 'fleet race' in a single crew Olympic class 'Laser Radial' sail boat, with eight foreign Naval Academies participating.
- This year's regatta has the highest ever number of countries participating in the event with **first time participation by Bulgaria and Iran.**

47. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

- **India's first engine-less train-breached the 180 kmph speed threshold during a test run in the Kota-Sawai Madhopur section, becoming the country's fastest train.**

✓ **About Train 18:**

- Train 18 is a flagship train set; the first prototype has been built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, in a record time of 20 months.
- The **train is a 100% 'Make in India' project** and is claimed to be built at half the cost of a similar train set that is imported.
- T-18 is a self-propelled engine-less train (similar to the Metro trains) and is energy-efficient as its coaches will be fitted with LED lights. Coaches will have automatic doors and retractable footsteps.
- It will be inter-connected with fully sealed gangways along with a GPS-based Passenger Information System. It is provided with of Bio toilets.

48. Answer (b) Poland

- **The Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the inauguration of Indian Pavilion at the 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Katowice, Poland.**

Theme of India Pavilion – "One World One Sun One Grid".

✓ **What Minister said:**

- The Ministry has **launched a nationwide campaign in preserving and protecting the environment called the Green Good Deeds Movement.**

- This campaign was prepared to inspire, encourage and involve each and every individual of the society to realize people's participation in accomplishing the goals.

- India's leadership in global climate action has been recognized and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been bestowed with "Champion of Earth Award" this year by the United Nations in promoting International Solar Alliance and resolve to make India plastic free by 2022.

✓ **What is the 'Champions of the Earth award'?**

- It was launched in 2005. "Champions of the Earth", the UN's highest environmental honour, celebrates outstanding figures from the public and private sectors and from civil society whose actions have had a transformative positive impact on the environment.

- In 2018, the award was received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron for their leadership in promotion of solar energy.

49. Answer (c) 1 and 3 only

- **Second statement is NOT CORRECT because it was launched onboard Ariane-5 launch vehicle Guiana Space Centre at Kourou in French Guiana.**

- GSAT-11 is ISRO's heaviest satellite ever built and weighs about 5854 kilograms.

- It was launched onboard Ariane-5 launch vehicle from French Guiana.

- ISRO has revealed that the satellite will be initially placed in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit and will be later raised to Geostationary Orbit. It will be using the Liquid Apogee Motor which will be onboard the satellite.

- GSAT-11 is part of ISRO's new family of high-throughput communication satellite (HTS) fleet that will drive the country's Internet broadband from space to untouched areas.

- According to ISRO, GSAT-11's multiple spot beam coverage — 32 in Ku band and eight in Ka bands — will deliver an improved service of 16 gbps over the Indian region and nearby islands.

- The satellite will also have VSAT Terminals which basically will ensure that it can handle large capacity platform to support a huge subscriber base.

50. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

• **It was in news because the government is planning to set up a National Medical Devices Promotion Council under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

✓ **About National Medical Devices Promotion Council:**

• **The Council will be headed by Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).**

• Apart from the concerned departments of Government, it will also have representatives from health care industry and quality control institutions.

• The Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone of Visakhapatnam will provide technical support to the Council.

✓ **Objectives of the National Medical Devices Promotion Council are:**

- Act as a facilitating, promotional & developmental body for the Indian Medical Devices Industry (MDI).
- Render technical assistance to the agencies and departments concerned to simplify the approval processes for MDI promotion and development.
- Enable entry of emerging interventions and support certifications for manufacturers to reach levels of global trade norms and lead India to an export driven market in the sector.

- Support dissemination and documentation of international norms and standards for medical devices by capturing the best practices in the global market.

- Facilitate domestic manufacturers to rise to international level of understanding of regulatory and non-regulatory needs of the industry.

- Drive a robust and dynamic Preferential Market Access (PMA) policy by identifying the strengths of the Indian manufacturers and discouraging unfair trade practices in imports
- Ensure pro-active monitoring of public procurement notices across India to ensure compliance with PMA guidelines of DIPP and DoP.

- Undertake validation of Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and other such entities within MDI sector, which add value to the industry strength in manufacturing to gain foothold for new entrants.

- Make recommendations to government based on industry feedback and global practices on policy and process interventions to strengthen the medical technology sector.

51. Answer (b) Jammu and Kashmir

• **It was in News because the Jammu and Kashmir State Administrative Council (SAC) under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik has approved the 'Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018' and the 'Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018'.**

- The **Bill seeks to amend the Ranbir Penal Code**, whereby **specific offence under section 354 E is being inserted to provide for the offence of 'Sextortion'**.
- **Indian Penal code is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir and in place of IPC, a similar criminal law Ranbir Penal Code applies in the state.** The code was **introduced by Ranbir Singh during the Dogra Dynasty and it came in effect from 1932.** The **provision of code was prepared by Thomas Babington Macaulay.**

52. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT because GSAT-7A is ISRO's 39th communication satellite.**
- **GSLV-F11 is the 13th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and its 7th flight with indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS).**
- **GSLV – F11 is ISRO's fourth generation launch vehicle with three stages.** The four liquid strap-ons and a solid rocket motor at the core form the first stage. The second stage of the vehicle is equipped with high thrust engine using liquid fuel. The Cryogenic Upper Stage forms the third and final stage of the vehicle.
- **GSAT-7A with a lift-off mass of 2250 kg, is a geostationary satellite carrying communication transponders in Ku-band.**
- **The Satellite is built to provide communication capability to the users over the Indian region.**

53. Answer (d) 2 and 3 only are correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT because ECO Niwas Samhita 2018 was launched by Ministry of power.**

- **Ministry of Power has launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R).**
- **The code was launched on National Energy Conservation Day 2018.**

✓ Aim of ECO Niwas Samhita 2018:

- **To benefit the occupants and the environment by promoting energy efficiency in design and construction of homes, apartments and townships.**

✓ About the Energy Conservation Building Code:

- **It is prepared after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, consisting of architects & experts including building material suppliers and developers.**
- **The parameters listed have been developed based on large number of parameters using climate and energy related data.**
- **The code is expected to assist large number of architects and builders who are involved in design and construction of new residential complexes.**

54. Answer (c) both 1 and 2

- **Fourth edition of Kochi-Muziris biennale is being held in Fort Kochi, Kerala.** The Biennale was curated by Anita Dube and become the first Biennale in world in which participation of women accounts for half of the participating artists.
- Theme of the Biennale is – **“Possibilities for a Non- Alienated Life”.**
- The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an international exhibition of contemporary art held in Kochi, Kerala. It is the **largest art exhibition in India and the biggest contemporary art festival in Asia.** The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an initiative of the Kochi Biennale Foundation with support from the Government of Kerala.

55. Answer (a) 1 only is correct

- **Second statement is NOT CORRECT because this is the second time India is hosting the Partners’ Forum. (First time in 2010)**
- It was **hosted by the Government of India, in association with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH).**
- The **previous chapters were held in Johannesburg, South Africa (2014), New Delhi, India (2010) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2007).**
- **Partners’ Forum is a global health partnership launched in September 2005 to accelerate efforts to reduce child and maternal mortality, improve**

adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health.

- **An alliance:** This partnership is an alliance of more than 1,000 plus members, across 10 constituencies in 92 countries: academic, research and teaching institutions; donors and foundations; health care professionals; multilateral agencies; non-governmental organizations; partner countries; global financing mechanisms and the private sector.

56. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

- The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is a scheme launched by Government of India in 2016 to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas, which will also include development of economic activities and skill development. The preferred mode of delivery is through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) while using various scheme funds for financing.
- The Mission aims at development of rural growth clusters which have latent potential for growth, in all States and Union Territories (UTs), which would trigger overall development in the region. These clusters would be developed by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities. The Rurban Mission will thus develop a cluster of Smart Villages.

- For the purposes of SPMRM, Rurban areas refer to a cluster of 15-20 villages having about 30 to 40 lakh populations. The clusters will be geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas. As far as practicable, clusters of village would follow administrative convergence units of Gram Panchayats. These clusters are intended to be well delineated areas with planned layouts prepared following the planning norms (as laid down in the State, Town and Country Planning Acts/similar Central or State statutes as may be applicable), which would be duly notified by the State/UTs. These plans would be finally integrated with the District Plans/Master Plans as the case may be.

- **Funding Support:**

- There is a funding support of up to 30% of the estimated investment for each Rurban cluster, given as Critical Gap Funding (CGF), while 70% of the funds is mobilized by the States through convergence with synergic State and Central programmes and private investment and institutional funding.

- The CGF is now shared between the Centre and the State in a ratio of 60:40 for Plain area States and 90:10 for Himalayan and NE States.

57. Answer (c) both 1 and 2

- GeM is a short form of one stop Government e-Market Place hosted by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) where common user goods and services can be procured.

- The National Mission on GeM (NMG) was launched on 5th September 2018 to accelerate the adoption and use of Procurement by Major Central Ministries, States and UTs and their agencies (including CPSUs/PSUs, Local Bodies) on the GeM platform.

✓ Objectives of the NMG:

- Promote inclusiveness by catapulting various categories of sellers and service providers.
- Highlight and communicate 'value add' by way of transparency and efficiency in public procurement, including corruption free governance.
- Achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction, in line with the Digital India objectives.
- Increase overall efficiency leading to significant cost saving on government expenditure in Procurement.
- Maximizing ease in availability of all types of products and services bought by Government buyers.

58. Answer (b) 1 and 3 only is correct

- **Second statement is NOT CORRECT because there is Provision of action against polluting industries.**

✓ Revised guidelines

- Encouraged use of recycled and treated sewage water by industries.
- Provision of action against polluting industries.
- Mandatory requirement of digital flow meters, piezometers and digital water level recorders, with or without telemetry depending upon quantum of extraction.
- Mandatory water audit by industries abstracting groundwater 500 m³/day or more in safe and semi-critical area and 200 m³/day or more in critical and over-exploited assessment units.
- Mandatory roof top rain water harvesting except for specified industries.
- Measures to be adopted to ensure prevention of groundwater contamination in premises of polluting industries/ projects.

✓ Exemptions under the revised guidelines:

- The revised guidelines exempt the requirement of NOC for agricultural users, users employing non-energised means to extract water, individual households (using less than 1 inch diameter delivery pipe) and Armed Forces Establishments during operational deployment.
- Other exemptions have been granted to strategic and operational infrastructure projects for Armed Forces, Defence and Paramilitary Forces Establishments and Government water

supply agencies.

✓ Water Conservation Fee:

- One of the important features of the revised guidelines is the introduction of the concept of Water Conservation Fee (WCF), the fee charged on extraction of ground water.
- The WCF payable varies with the category of the area, type of industry and the quantum of ground water extraction.

59. Answer (d) All of the above

- It was in news because it has mapped melting ice sheets in Antarctica and the resulting sea level rise across the globe, which could help improve climate forecasts.
- The satellite is measuring the height of sea ice to within an inch, tracing the terrain of previously unmapped Antarctic valleys, surveying remote ice sheets, and peering through forest canopies and shallow coastal waters.
- With each pass of the ICESat-2 satellite, the mission is adding to datasets tracking Earth's rapidly changing ice. Researchers are ready to use the information to study sea level rise resulting from melting ice sheets and glaciers, and to improve sea ice and climate forecasts.

✓ ICESat-2 will set off with four primary objectives:

1) Measure changing mass on ice sheets and glaciers from around the world.

2) Measure how much ice melt from Greenland and Antarctica contributes to rising sea levels. Ice melt in Antarctica, for example, has accelerated over the past five years. "We know that there's going to be some sea level rise," said Peter Neff, a glaciologist at the University of Washington in Seattle, but scientists don't know how much or how soon.

3) Estimate the thickness of sea ice in the Arctic and monitor any changes. Scientists know how much sea ice area in the Arctic has changed since 1980. But satellites like ICESat-2 help determine changes in sea ice thickness. A decrease in sea ice thickness could exacerbate ocean warming by allowing more light to reach the ocean's surface and increase water temperature.

4) Measure forest height to calculate the amount of carbon stored in plants. Plants stash carbon as food and use it to grow. That stored carbon can't contribute to warming the climate or acidifying oceans.

• ICESat-2's **Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System (ATLAS)** measures height by timing how long it takes individual light photons to travel from the spacecraft to Earth and back.

60. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

• **This was in news because** States have achieved complete household

electrification under the Saubhagya scheme. They are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal. With this, **16 States in the country now have 100 per cent household electrification.**

✓ **About Saubhagya scheme**

• Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – 'Saubhagya' was launched in September, 2017.

• Under Saubhagya free electricity connections to all households (**both APL and poor families**) in rural areas and **poor families in urban areas** will be provided.

• **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)** has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

• The scheme **aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country.**

• All DISCOMs including Private Sector DISCOMs, State Power Departments and RE Cooperative Societies shall be eligible for financial assistance under the scheme in line with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

• **Eligibility:** The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme would be identified using SECC 2011 data. However, **un-electrified households not covered under SECC data would also be**

provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.

✓ Objective of the Scheme:

- Providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas.
- Providing Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages / habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective.
- Providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining economically poor un-electrified households in urban areas.
- **Non-poor urban households are excluded from this scheme.**

61. Answer (a) World Bank

- RISE report is published by World Bank.
- It rates 133 countries on electricity access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and access to clean cooking.
- It is to provide useful data to policymakers and help the private sector make informed decisions about investing in energy projects.
- It charts global progress on sustainable energy policies.
- The 2018 report finds that the world has seen a huge uptake in sustainable energy policies.

62. Answer (d) North eastern region

- The bridge is going to be constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) across the **river Ijai in the state of Manipur.**
- It is **set to get the World's tallest railway bridge** and it is expected to be over 142 meters tall.
- It will connect Manipur with the rest of the Country.
- It will be twice the height of Qutub Minar which is the tallest minaret made up of brick in the world.
- **Mala-Rijeka viaduct bridge** (139 meters) in Europe currently holds the tallest railway bridge record.

63. Answer (b) 2 only is only correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT** because the register was **first prepared after the 1951 Census of India.**
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens residing in Assam.
- The update process of NRC started in the year 2013 under the strict monitoring of Supreme Court of India. On the midnight of 31 December 2017, Part Draft NRC was released and subsequently on 30 July 2018, the Complete Draft NRC was released.
- The purpose of NRC update is to identify illegal migrants residing in North eastern state who entered Indian territories after midnight on 24 March

1971 and to determine the citizenship of the applicants who have applied for inclusion of their names in the updated NRC thereafter making the states immigrants free.

- The Assam government on July 30, 2018 released the second and final draft of the state's National Register of Citizens (NRC).

- The draft includes the names of Indian citizens who have been residing in Assam before March 25, 1971.

- **Policy decisions, guidelines and funds for NRC updates are provided by the Central Government of India, but its implementation is done through the State Government machinery under the Registrar General of India** who functions as the Registrar General of Citizen Registration under Rule 15 of Citizenship Rules, 2003 as amended in 2009 and 2010.

✓ Eligibility Criteria

- Persons whose names appear in NRC, 1951.

Persons whose names appear in any of the Electoral Rolls up to 24 March (midnight), 1971.

- Descendants of the above persons.

- Persons who came to Assam on or after 1 January 1966 but before 25 March 1971 and registered themselves in accordance with the rules made by the Central Government with the Foreigners Registration Regional Officer

(FRRO) and who have not been declared as illegal migrants or foreigners by the competent authority.

- People who are original inhabitants of Assam and their children and descendants who are citizens of India provided their citizenship is ascertained beyond a reasonable doubt by the registering authority.

- 'D' voters can apply for inclusion of their names in the updated NRC. However, their names will be finally included only when the appropriate Foreigner Tribunal declares them as non-foreigners.

- Persons who can provide any one of the documents issued up to midnight of 24 March 1971 as mentioned in the list of documents admissible for citizenship.

- All Indian Citizens including their children and descendants who have moved to Assam post 24 March 1971 would be eligible for inclusion in the updated NRC on adducing satisfactory proof of residence in any part of the country (outside Assam) as on 24 March 1971.

- All members of the Tea Tribes shall be covered under 'Original inhabitants of Assam' category provided for under Clause 3(3) of the Schedule of The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

- All such original inhabitants shall be included on the basis of proof to the satisfaction of the Registering Authority. On the establishment of the citizenship of such persons beyond a reasonable doubt, their names shall be in the

updated NRC.

- All Indian Citizens including their children and descendants who have moved to Assam post 24 March 1971 would be eligible for inclusion in the updated NRC on adducing satisfactory proof of residence in any part of the country (outside Assam) as on 24 March 1971.
- All such original inhabitants shall be included on the basis of proof to the satisfaction of the Registering Authority. On the establishment of the citizenship of such persons beyond a reasonable doubt, their names shall be in the updated NRC.

64. Answer (a) 1 only is correct

- **Second statement is NOT CORRECT** because Ensure portal is developed by **NABARD**.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has recently launched a portal "Ensure" to connect with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- It is developed by NABARD and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.
- The **National Livestock Mission consists of a component** called **Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG)**.
- Under this component, subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs etc. through DBT goes directly to the beneficiary's account.
- Ensure online portal was launched to make the DBT better, simpler and transparent.

65. Answer (c) both 1 and 2

- Indian Navy has recently inducted deep submergence rescue vehicle which will be operational from April, 2019.
- Currently India operates conventional submarines of the Sindhughosh, Shishumar, Kalvari classes as well as nuclear powered submarines.
- The traditional methods of search and rescue by these conventional submarines during an eventuality expose them to high degree of risk.
- To overcome this gap, India has acquired a 3rd generation, advanced submarine rescue system considering of a Non-tethered Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) and its associated equipment.
- It is capable of undertaking rescue from a disabled submarine up to 650 metres depth.
- The DSRV, operated by a crew of three, can rescue 14 personnel from a disabled submarine at a time.
- The vehicles are developed by Scotland-based JFD.
- With this, India joins a select league of navies with the sovereign capability to search, locate and rescue crew from a disabled submarine.

66. Answer (a) Russia

- **Akademik Lomonosov is the world's first "floating" nuclear power plant (FNPP). It is coming up in Russia.**
- An FNPP is basically a mobile, low-capacity reactor unit operable in remote areas isolated from the main power

distribution system or in places hard to access by land. They are designed to maintain both uninterrupted power and plentiful desalinated water supply in remote areas.

67. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

About the Marrakech Compact on Migration:

- In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016, the General Assembly decided to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.
- The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) sets out a common, comprehensive approach to international migration.
- The GCM is a voluntary, non-binding document that introduces no additional obligations to states. It is a global agreement setting out a common framework, shared principles and best practices on international migration.
- It aims at cooperation between states and promotes measures to strengthen regular migration pathways, to tackle irregular migration, and to protect human rights of migrants among other objectives.
- The compact includes 23 objectives and a set of possible actions for each one, from which governments can draw in responding to the issue.
- Notably, the Global Compact establishes a United Nations mechanism allowing Governments and companies to contribute technical, financial and

human resources for implementing it.

- The global compact is framed consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

68. Answer-(d) All of the above

✓ Changes approved in the National Pension System:

- **Mandatory contribution by the Central Government enhanced by 4 percent** from the existing 10 percent to **14 percent for employees covered under NPS Tier-I**
- **Central government employees will be provided with freedom of choice for selection of Pension Funds and pattern of investment.**
- **Payment of compensation for non-deposit or delayed deposit of NPS** contributions during 2004-2012
- Contribution by Government employees under Tier-II of NPS will now be covered under Section 80 C for deduction up to Rs 1.50 lakh for the purpose of income tax at par with schemes such as General (PF), Contributory PF, Employees PF and Public PF, with lock-in period of 3 years.
- **The entire withdrawal will now be exempt from income tax** as the tax exemption limit for lump sum withdrawal on exit has been enhanced to 60 percent.

✓ About National Pension System (NPS)?

- National Pension System (NPS) is a government-sponsored pension scheme. It was launched in January 2004 for government employees. However, in 2009, it was opened to all sections.
- The scheme allows subscribers to contribute regularly in a pension account during their working life. On retirement, subscribers can withdraw a part of the corpus in a lumpsum and use the remaining corpus to buy an annuity to secure a regular income after retirement.
- This system is managed by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority).

✓ Who can join NPS?

- Any Indian citizen **between 18 and 60 years** can join NPS. The **only condition is that the person must comply with know your customer (KYC) norms.**

✓ Can a Non Resident Indian (NRI) join NPS?

- Yes, an NRI can join NPS. However, the account will be closed if there is a change in the citizenship status of the NRI.

69. Answer (b) Maritime trade

- PCS 1x' is a cloud based new generation technology, with user-friendly interface.
- This system **seamlessly integrates**

stakeholders from the maritime trade on a single platform.

- The platform offers value added services such as notification engine, workflow, mobile application, track and trace, better user interface, better security features, improved inclusion by offering dashboard for those with no IT capability.
- Another major feature is the deployment of a world class state of the art payment aggregator solution which removes dependency on bank specific payment eco system.
- It has been **developed indigenously and is a part of the 'Make in India' and 'Digital India'**

For more details: https://www.google.com/amp/s/m.timesofindia.com/business/india-business/indian-ports-association-launches-pcs-1x-to-increase-ease-of-doing-business/amp_article/show/67048640.cms

70. Answer (c) China and India

- The seventh edition Hand-in-Hand Military exercise between India, China is being held in Chengdu, China. The main focus is on counter-terrorism operations. It will involve tactical level operations in an International Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorist environment under UN mandate.

71. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT** because Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or

Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas **notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. •The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of “shock absorbers” to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas. They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

• **It was in news because the** Supreme Court has directed the Union Environment Ministry to declare 10 km area around 21 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country as ‘eco-sensitive zones’.

72. Answer (b) Karnataka

- **It was in news because** Kaiga plant in Karnataka has recently created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation for 941 days.
- It breaks the earlier record of 940 days by the Heysham – 2 reactor of United Kingdom.
- Kaiga is an **indigenously built Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor** (PHWR) run by **domestic fuel (Uranium)**.
- It began commercial operation in 2016.
- While Kaiga is a PHWR and Heysham-2 Unit-8 is an Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR).

73. Answer (c) both 1 and 2

• It was in news because Agni – V was successfully test fired from a canister on a road mobile launcher from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha.

• It is **India’s longest-range ballistic missile** which will be inducted into the nuclear arsenal soon.

• It is an **Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** with a range of over 5,000 km and can reach most parts of China.

• It is **powered by three stage solid fuelled missiles**.

• It can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes.

• It is a part of **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)**.

74. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

• **First statement is NOT CORRECT because** the Karma Kagyu lineage belongs to one of the 4 main schools of **Tibetan Buddhism. (NOT Hinduism)**

• **It was in news because** the 17th Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje, who has been out of India since May 2017, has taken the citizenship and passport of Dominica, a Caribbean island country. The passport of Dominica allowed Karmapa the visa-free entry into many Commonwealth countries.

• Since the 12th century the **Karmapas have been the heads of the Karma Kaygü lineage** and responsible for the continuation of this direct transmission lineage

✓ **About Karma Kagyu school:**

- The Karma Kagyu lineage belongs to one of the 4 main schools of Tibetan Buddhism. As a lineage of direct oral transmission it places particular emphasis on meditation and the realization of the direct experience of mind gained through the guidance of a teacher.
- The Karma Kagyu lineage has its roots in the teachings of the historical Buddha and developed into a practical way to enlightenment in India and Tibet.
- For over 1000 years Buddhist Masters (Mahasiddhas) such as Naropa and Maitripa in India as well as the famous Tibetan Yogis Marpa and Milarepa shaped the lineage as a practical everyday practice for lay people.

76. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT because** Researchers have recently unearthed 11 million years old the Ape fossil in **Kutch, Gujarat**.
- Fossils of Ape have been previously unearthed near the Siwalik hill range, spreading across Pakistan, Churia Hills in Nepal and around the Himalayas.
- But this new finding, almost 1,000 km south from the previous finds has increased the geographic range of the genus.
- Many associated mammal fossils belonging to the Miocene age have been

discovered in Kutch in the past, including whales and sea cows.

- That's the reason, Kutch is considered as a paradise for fossils.
- The new discovery will help to understand in detail the evolution of great apes.

77. Answer (a) India

- The **first International conference on sustainable water management** was recently organized by **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** at Indian School of Business (ISB), **Mohali, India**.
- It was organized **under the aegis of national hydrology project**, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- National hydrology project is a **central sector scheme**, helps in gathering hydro-meteorological data which will be stored and analysed on a real time basis.
- ✓ **The aim of the Conference is:**
 - To foster the participation of and dialogue between various stakeholders, including governments, the scientific and academic communities, so as to promote sustainable policies for water management,
 - to create awareness of water-related problems, motivate commitment at the highest level for their solution and thus promote better management of water

resources at local, regional, national and international levels.

- The theme of the Conference “Sustainable Water Management” deals with promoting integrated and sustainable development and management of Water Resources.

78. Answer (d) neither 1 nor 2

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT because the** It is a **national challenge to students of classes 6 - 12** across the country to give them a platform to become solution creators for the problems.

- **Second statement is NOT CORRECT because** it is designed and launched by the National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT in collaboration **with Intel India, (Not Facebook)** with the support of Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- It will help inculcate innovation skills in youth and equip all students to utilise technology for the betterment of their communities and the society at large.

79. Answer (a) China

- Chang’e-4 mission was launched by **China** to explore the far side of the Moon.
- The mission will incorporate an orbiter, a robotic lander and rover.

- It will be China's second lunar lander and rover.

- It is a **global first probe named after the moon goddess in Chinese mythology.**

- Unlike the near side of the moon that is “tidally locked” and always faces the earth, and offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged.

80. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

- ✓ **State of Maharashtra’s Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project:**

- The objective of project is to create and support value chains in post-harvest segments of agriculture, facilitate agribusiness investment, stimulate SMEs within the value chain.

- ✓ **Focus:** It will also support resilient agriculture production systems, expand access to new and organised markets for producers and enhance private sector participation in the agribusiness.

- ✓ **Coverage:**

- **It will cover almost one-fourth of Maharashtra.**

- Its focus is on villages which are reeling under worst agriculture crisis compounded by lack of infrastructure

and assured value chains to channelize farm produce.

81. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

• **First statement is NOT CORRECT because Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance.

• The award has been conferred considering its purpose and critical role played in **installing about 73 GW renewable energy capacity in the country.**

• With **21 per cent of total installed capacity**, within the year **renewable energy grossed one billion units of electricity in the country.**

✓ India's ranking:

• India ranks **fourth in the world in wind energy capacity**, and

• India **ranks fifth in solar & total energy capacity installed in the world.**

✓ Skoch Group

• It is a think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with a focus on inclusive growth since 1997. It has instituted India's highest independent civilian honours in the field

of governance, finance, technology, economics and social sector.

✓ About Skoch Award 2018

Who can nominate?

- Central government
 - State government
 - Local body
 - Municipality
 - City/District administration
 - State Owned Enterprises/Undertakings
- ✓ SKOCH Award celebrates excellence of governance delivery by domain departments. This includes having sufficient familiarity, capacity and knowledge about the functionality of their systems, processes and outcomes.

82. Answer (a) International year of Millets

• **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** has said that the **160th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Council** in Rome, **approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023.**

• In addition, the FAO Council also approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021.

83. Answer (d) neither 1 nor 2

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT** because, it is a Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise.

- **Second statement is NOT CORRECT** because It was conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) recently at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&B) Islands.

- The objective of exercise was to ascertain preparedness of ICG, resource agencies and other stakeholders in responding to major oil spill in line with provisions of National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP).

✓ About ICG

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) under Ministry of Defence is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India and is coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.

- It has drawn up National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) and has established three pollution response centres at Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair.

84. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

- NITI Aayog in partnership with Perlin, a Singapore-based AI startup, has launched 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon' to further expand the idea of 'Artificial Intelligence, AI for All' articulated in the National AI Strategy.

- The challenge seeks to develop solutions in distributed computing and privacy preserving techniques, such as multi-party computation, in artificial intelligence. It invites developers, students, start-ups and companies to develop AI applications to make significant positive social and economic impact for India.

- The objective of this hackathon is to **promote awareness and subsequently develop solutions that deliver the twin benefit of efficient computing to address the infrastructure challenges, while also not compromising on privacy of data for training AI algorithms.**

- The Hackathon was announced at the AI conference organised by NITI Aayog, in partnership with the ORF, held in Mumbai in November 2018.

- It will be run two stages with the stage one ending on January 15, 2019 and the stage two, which will only include shortlisted participants from the previous stage, will conclude on March 15, 2019

- The first stage will invite ideas for use cases of multi-party computation in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, urbanisation and financial inclusion.
- The second stage will call for these ideas to be matured and developed, with a focus on privacy preserving AI and distributed computing.
- The winners will share in a prize pool worth USD \$50,000 in both cash and non-cash rewards.
- The participants will also get mentorship and support from the hackathon co-sponsors, including the opportunity to scale and implement their AI applications.

85. Answer (d) Internet use.

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recently said that by the end of 2018, **world will surpass the 50/50 milestone for internet use.**
- **It means that for the first time, more than half of the global population will be using internet by the end of 2018.**
- This represents an important step towards a more inclusive global information society.
- According to ITU, the world's richest countries have been showing slow and steady growth in Internet use, from 51% in 2005 to 80% now.
- The development is more dramatic in developing countries where 45% people

are currently online, compared to just 7.7% in 2005.

86. Answer (d) neither 1 nor 2

• **First statement is NOT CORRECT**

because Mayurbhanj Chhau dance is originally a tribal dance, which **originated from the forests of Mayurbhanj, Odisha** in the 18th century, and it **got the status of a martial art** form in the **19th century.**

• Chhau is found in three styles named after the location where they are performed, i.e. the **Purulia Chau of Bengal**, the **Seraikella Chau of Jharkhand**, and the **Mayurbhanj Chau of Odisha.**

• **Second statement is NOT CORRECT**

because the most prominent difference among the three subgenres is regarding the use of masks. While, the **Seraikela and Purulia subgenres of Chhau use masks during the dance**, the **Mayurbhanj Chhau uses none.**

87. Answer (c) both 1 and 2

• **Delhi state government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' which offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits.**

✓ **Highlights of the scheme:**

- 1,100 senior citizens from every constituency of Delhi will be able to avail this facility at one go.
- Under this free pilgrimage scheme, a Delhi resident above 60 years will be eligible to take free pilgrimage along with his or her spouse.
- There is no income criterion but preference will be given to those from economically weaker sections on first-come-first-serve basis.
- Employees of central, state and local government or autonomous bodies are not eligible for the scheme.

88. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT** because it is developed by Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO.
- The application was launched recently by the Ministry of Water Resources during India Water Impact Summit, 2018.
- It is **used for geo-tagging of saplings and delineation of plantation boundaries** under ongoing afforestation activities of Namami Gange programme.

89. Answer (a) 1 only is correct

- Second statement is NOT CORRECT because the scheme shall extend to the whole of the India **except the State of**

Jammu & Kashmir. (So not whole India as asked in question)

- The Supreme Court has approved the Centre's draft witness protection scheme and has asked all the states to implement it till Parliament comes out with legislation. The court has also made some changes in the scheme.

✓ Highlights of the draft scheme:

- The draft witness protection scheme has been finalized in consultation with the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).**
- The types of protection measures envisaged under the scheme are to be applied in proportion to the threat and they are not expected to go on for infinite time.
- The **scheme envisages that there should be safeguards** that witnesses and accused do not come face to face during investigation or trial and adequate security measures should be there for the safety of the witnesses.
- The scheme provides for **identity protection** and giving a new identity to the witness.
- The **scheme shall extend to the whole of the India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir.**
- As per the scheme, **police escort will be provided** to witnesses who are

threatened and, if needed, they would be relocated to a safe house. The **scheme also says mails and phone calls of the witnesses would be monitored to trace the person threatening them.** It said a **separate witness protection fund** will be created in each state to meet the expenses incurred under the scheme.

- **Witness deposition complexes** will be set up in all district courts by the states and union territories within a year where the witnesses could fearlessly depose against the high and mighty without coming face-to-face with the accused.

✓ **It has three categories of witnesses based on the threat perception:**

- **Category 'A':** Where the threat extends to life of witness or his family members and their normal way of living is affected for a substantial period, during investigation/trial or even thereafter.
- **Category 'B':** Where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or his family members, only during the investigation process or trial.
- **Category 'C':** Where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family member's, reputation or property, during the investigation process.

90. Answer (b) Dance

✓ **About Kamsale:**

- Kamsale is known as **Beesu Kamsale**.
- It is a **unique folk dance performed by the devotees of God Mahadeshwara**.
- It is a **group dance form performed by the menfolk in villages in the Mysore, Nanjanagudu, Kollegala and Bangalore areas in Karnataka**.
- Kamsale is used both as an instrument and also as a prop by the dancers themselves.
- The **Kamsale nritya is closely connected to a tradition of Male Mahadeshwara, or Lord Shiva worship by the haalu kuruba community**. Most of the dancers are also drawn from this community.
- The **dance is performed to rhythmic and melodious music that is sung in praise of "Lord Male Mahadeshwara" or "Shiva"**.
- The **dance is a part of a 'diiksha', or oath and is taught by teacher or spiritual leader**.

91. Answer (d) All of the above

- **Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018.**
- **The Cabinet has also approved the**

proposal for establishment of Monitoring Framework at Centre with Commerce as the nodal Department with representation from various line Ministries/Departments and Agencies and representatives of concerned State Governments, to oversee the implementation of Agriculture Export Policy.

✓ **Objectives:**

- **To double agricultural exports from present US\$ 30+ Billion to US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion in the next few years thereafter, with a stable trade policy regime.**
- **To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value and value added agricultural exports including focus on perishables.**
- **To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.**
- **To provide an institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phytosanitary issues.**
- **To strive to double India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.**
- **Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.**

92. Answer (d) World Intellectual Property Organization

•Globally, 1.4 million patents were granted in 2017. **China's patent authority led the world** in the number of patents granted with 420,144 and was followed by the US with 318,829, according to the WIPO.

✓ **Highlights of the report- India related key facts:**

- The number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017**, keeping up a trend of steep increases. The patents granted by India increased from 8,248 in 2016 to 12,387 last year.
- Of the patents granted last year, 1,712 went to entities and individuals based in India, and 10,675 to foreigners.
- While India ranked 10th in the number of patents given last year, no Indian company or university figures in last year's global list of the top 50 patent applicants.

✓ **About WIPO:**

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- It was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the

protection of intellectual property throughout the world.”

- It has currently 188 member states, administers 26 international treaties, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Non-members are the states of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, South Sudan and Timor-Leste. Palestine has observer status.
- **India is a member of WIPO and party to several treaties administered by WIPO.**

93. Answer a) Andhra Pradesh

- The **largest floating solar plant to date is in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. Another is a 500-kWh plant built by the Kerala State Electricity Board at the Banasura Sagar Dam.
- Floating solar power plant was in news because a **50 MW floating solar plant will be set up in the country's largest reservoir Rihand dam in Sonbhadra district in UP.**

94. Answer (b) 2 only is correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT because** the Global Carbon Project (GCP) was established in **2001**
- **It was in news because Global** carbon emissions are set to hit an all-time high of 37.1 billion tonnes of CO₂ in 2018,

according to researchers at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and the Global Carbon Project.

✓ Highlights of the study:

- **India, the third-highest contributor**, is projected to see emissions rise by 6.3% from 2017. The 2.7% projected global rise in 2018 has been driven by appreciable growth in coal use for the second year in a row, and sustained growth in oil and gas use.
- The 10 biggest emitters in 2018 are China, U.S., India, Russia, Japan, Germany, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Canada. The EU as a region of countries ranks third. China's emissions accounted for 27% of the global total, having grown an estimated 4.7% in 2018 and reaching a new all-time high.
- Emissions in the U.S., which has withdrawn from its commitment to the Paris Agreement, account for 15% of the global total, and look set to have grown about 2.5% in 2018 after several years of decline.
- Limiting global warming to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of keeping the global temperature increase this century to well below 2°C, would need carbon dioxide emissions to decline by 50% by 2030 and reach net zero by about 2050.
- Though coal use contributed to the

rise in 2018 from last year, it still remains below its historical high in 2013 but may exceed that if current growth continues.

✓ **About Global Carbon Project:**

- The Global Carbon Project was formed in 2001 to help the international science community to establish a common, mutually agreed knowledge base that supports policy debate and action to slow the rate of increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- It is a Global Research Project of Future Earth and a research partner of the World Climate Research Programme. It was formed to work with the international science community to establish a common and mutually agreed knowledge base to support policy debate and action to slow down and ultimately stop the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- **The Global Carbon Project works collaboratively with the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the World Climate Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change and Diversitas, under the Earth System Science Partnership.**

95. Answer (d) all of the above

- National Integration Tour has been **initiated as part of the Indian Army's ongoing outreach programme to foster the spirit of National Integration** across the entire swathe of the country.

96. Answer (a) 1 and 2 only is correct

- **Third statement is NOT CORRECT** because it is a communication satellite.
- With the launch of ExseedSAT 1, **Exseed Space has become the first Indian privately-funded startup to successfully send a satellite into space.**
- ExseedSAT 1 was launched into space by Space X along with 63 other satellites from 17 countries.

✓ **About ExseedSAT 1 and its applications:**

- The **mini communication satellite** weighing just a kg with double the size of a Rubik's cube (10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm) is made up of **aluminium alloy**.
- The satellite looks to **serve the amateur radio community**.
- The satellite with a lifespan of five years will allow people to receive signals on 145.9 Mhz frequency with the help of a TV tuner.
- The satellite would provide a big boost to private radio operators and help in

coordinating messages among them and help the country in time of disaster.

97. Answer (c) Both 1 and 2 is correct

- Cabinet has recently approved the launching of “National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems”.
- The mission aims at establishment of Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).
- It is a Pan India mission covering Central Ministries, State Governments, Industry and Academia, to effectively use Cyber Physical System (CPS) technologies.
- CPS is an interdisciplinary field that deals with the deployment of computer-based systems that do things in the physical world.
- Smart grids, where electricity is optimally distributed on the basis of calculations in real time by micro-processors and autonomous unmanned vehicles and aircraft navigation systems qualify as ‘cyber physical systems.’
- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Machine Learning (ML), Deep Learning (DP), Big Data Analytics, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum encryption (Quantum Key

Distribution) are associated technologies of CPS.

98. Answer (b) Odisha

- Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric), famous for its healing properties, is all set to receive GI tag.
- The golden yellow spice, named after the district where it is produced, has been cultivated since time immemorial and is known for its medicinal value.
- Turmeric is the main **cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal**. Apart from domestic use, turmeric is also used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.
- More than 60,000 families (nearly 50% of Kandhamal population) are engaged in growing the variety. The **crop is sustainable in adverse climatic conditions**.

99. Answer (a) 1 only is correct

- **First statement is NOT CORRECT** rat kangaroo is listed as **Endangered** in IUCN red list.
- **They are in news because** the World Wildlife Fund recently reported that they have **suffered a dramatic population decline and could become extinct without urgent action**.
- Their numbers are down by 70% in the past 30 years.
- They are at risk from feral cats, land-clearing and wildfires, which have

become more frequent and fierce in Queensland due to climate change.

- They are also known as **northern bettong**.

100. Answer (a) Oil and gas field

- Union Government has constituted a six-member committee to look at selling of 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output. The panel is chaired by the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.